



High Court Ruled Garlic a Vegetable | Madhya Pradesh | 16 Aug 2024

Why in News?

Recently, the Indore bench of the **Madhya Pradesh High Court** has **officially declared garlic as a vegetable**.

Key Points

- This ruling is expected to **benefit farmers by enabling them to sell garlic directly in the market** without paying commissions to agents.
- In 2015, a **farmers' organisation in Madhya Pradesh urged the Mandi Board to classify garlic as a vegetable**.
 - However, the Agriculture Department soon reversed this decision, reclassifying garlic as a spice under the [Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act, 1972](#).
 - This led to a legal challenge by the **Potato, Onion, and Garlic Commission Agent Association** in 2016.
 - In 2017, a single judge ruled in favour of the association, allowing garlic to be sold as a vegetable.

Garlic

- Botanically, **garlic (*Allium sativum*)** is considered a vegetable, as it has a bulb, tall stem, and long leaves.
 - The distinctive smell of **garlic and onion is due to the presence of sulphur-containing chemicals**.
- Garlic grows best in well-drained, fertile loamy **soil with a pH range of 6-8. Soils rich in organic matter are preferred** for their moisture and nutrient retention and reduced risk of crusting and compaction. **Heavy soils may cause deformed bulbs**, while poorly drained soils can lead to discoloured bulbs.
- Garlic thrives at **1200-2000 meters above sea level**. Requires cool, moist climate during growth and warm, dry weather during maturity.
- **Production:** India is the **world's second-largest garlic exporter**, with record-high exports in 2023 due to supply chain issues in China.
 - Indian garlic flakes have become more popular in **West Asian countries**, with the United States, Malaysia, Brazil, Germany, and the United Kingdom being India's main garlic export markets.
- [Geographical Indication Tag:](#)
- **Riyawan Garlic**, a GI-tagged garlic from **Madhya Pradesh**, is renowned for its **high yield, pungent and robust flavour, and higher oil content** compared to other varieties.
- **Kodaikanal Malai poondu (Hill Garlic)** a GI-tagged garlic from Tamil Nadu, is known for its medicinal and preservative properties due to its **antioxidant** and antimicrobial potential, which are attributed to the presence of the **higher amount of organosulfur compounds, phenols and flavonoids compared to the garlic varieties**.
- **Kanthalloor Vattavada Veluthuli**, a GI-tagged garlic from **Kerala**, is renowned for its strong aroma and flavour. Grown in the high-altitude areas of Kanthalloor and Vattavada, this **small-sized garlic is prized for its medicinal properties and culinary use**.

